

CDXC Newsletter

December 1992

Chiltern DX Club

Issue 71

Editorial

(Andrew Shaw, G0HSD)

Hi everyone. Well things have certainly picked up on the bands in the last few weeks. Lots of interesting DX flooding the bands and some very good openings on 10 and 15m not to mention LF as well. As I write this, I am currently preparing for CQWW CW this weekend. I will be one of the operators at G3OZF for a multi-single entry. If everything goes according to plan it should be great fun and a good test for Don's station and our operating skills as well as one for computer technology. Where were we without them? Beats me.

I have had another extremely busy couple of months at the office leaving very little time or energy for radio. Our house has also been in utter turmoil with builders, plumbers, surveyors, JCBs etc... Many of the antennas are still not connected, making life frustrating. The rotator had broken so the beam is permanently beaming to P29. Must get round to doing something about it in time for KH1.

I was very glad to hear that Ian, G4LJF, is to be one of the operators on the latest KH1 operation. It looks like a very interesting trip and Ian assures me that there will be plenty of scope for fun en route, including a brief stop in KH6 for some hang gliding! Hard life. Best of luck Ian! Hope it all goes well. I just hope that propagation holds out. KH1 is not ideally positioned for Northern

Europe and I might have to re-think antenna plans for 1993.

On a sadder note, I was very sorry to hear of the passing of Al, G3FXB earlier in the month. His death is a great loss to amateur radio and contesting in particular. His presence on the bands will be missed by all of us. Al was one of my heroes and helped inspire me to take contesting seriously. A full tribute to Al appears elsewhere in the Newsletter.

That's it from me for another issue. I wish you all a very merry Christmas and happy New Year and hope that 1993 is a prosperous one for all of us.

Secretary's Update

(Alan Jubb, G3PMR)

I thought it would be useful to mention a few items that have happened or are under discussion by the Committee.

Awards Manager. Following the appeal in the September newsletter, Bren, G4DYO, has kindly volunteered to take up the position of Awards Manager, a job which I know he has already taken up with his usual enthusiasm, and to which he is applying his organisational skills.

DXpedition Funding. £150 was donated to the Willis Island DXpedition via DXNS.

Newsletter Distribution. Has been streamlined. Everyone should get them with in a day or so of one another,

rather than a spread of deliveries over a week or two.

Advertising. The Committee has taken a decision to increase income by means of advertising in the Newsletter. Keith, G3VKW, has the job of masterminding this.

Membership Certificates. It has been decided to re-introduce membership certificates. A draft has been produced; would anyone who has access to a colour laser or ink-jet printer please let Bren or myself know.

That's it for this time.

73 Alan, G3PMR, Secretary

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Deadline for next newsletter: 10th Jan. 93

LETTERS TO EDITOR

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

By Brendan McCartney, G4DYO

I refer to remarks in the recent issues of Newsletter and CDXC Bulletin regarding a possible name change for CDXC.

Sure, it would be nice to retain the CDXC title, but some potential members view it as too parochial. I am not too enamoured by the suggestion in the latest Bulletin that the club should be renamed "UK Contest and DX Club" for several reasons. Firstly, there are several clubs which cater for contest enthusiasts and it would surely be preferable for the club to retain its present unique status. Secondly, those who founded the club were not primarily contest enthusiasts; CDXC was formulated as a club for HF DXERS and many "expert" contesters are NOT DXers. "UK Contest and DX Club" puts DXing in second place to contesting and could open the gates to VHF contest types. A dozen or less of the current membership are "serious" contesters but the vast majority are DXers - otherwise they shouldn't have been proposed for membership (and PLEASE remember that, guys).

Possible solutions would be to go for something totally different: why not British DX Foundation? Or, to retain the CDXC title and branch out, how about the Commonwealth DX Club? BERU has a tremendous following and a name such as that would surely result in a dramatic increase in members. Lastly, as I believe I have said before, the Toronto DX Club administers CANAD-X, the Canadian DX Association. It should therefore be possible to retain CDXC as a small group administering a larger, UK-wide DX Foundation.

Members must decide whether they would support such a venture. Despite the comments in the last Bulletin, apart from those officially involved very few CDXC members did anything to help at the HF Convention. The GB1OTA station in the CDXC room was largely down to Neville, G3NUG, who was not a member of CDXC at the time! Despite repeated pleas for help and special flyers in the last Newsletter, there was a remarkable lack of volunteers to assist with transporting visiting DXers from Heathrow and Gatwick to Windsor. The club could have gained a lot of useful publicity - and supposedly keen DXers could have assisted some of their DX idols - but we (rather YOU - I did my bit at Heathrow!) let the side down badly. Out of around 140 members only two offered help to Henry Lewis, the transport co-ordinator - Roger Brown, who has done more than his fair share of work for the club, and me. Where was everyone else? Phil Weaver, VS6CT also helped but he was not a Club member at the time. Where was CDXC at G3KMA's pre-Convention bash?? G's were outnumbered about 10-1 at what must rate as one of the best privately arranged events with some top DXers from around the world in attendance.

C'mon guys - support the Club AND DXing. Don't leave everything to half a dozen overworked souls.

Brendan McCartney, G4DYO

From Brian, G4ODV: Many members have met Ernie C53GS and his wife Anna and will have heard that Anna suffered a serious liver and kidney complaint and was given a very pessimistic prognosis that she had only six months to live. When I left there in December last year they were trying to sell off the property in the hope of returning to the UK.

However, dispersing of the property turned out to be no easier than it is currently in the UK so in March they visited the UK to see a specialist in Sheffield whose prognosis was not nearly so drastic. In fact it should not get worse and is not terminal. So their many friends will be pleased to learn that they are continuing life with the hotel, Ernie is currently building four further bedrooms and we can all look forward to returning to this DXers paradise for the foreseeable future.

An Amateur Radio Family

by Gail Stevens, G0GRK

It was my father who started the craze for amateur radio in our family. After years and years of VHF listening, he decided, some ten years ago, to enrol on the RAE course at our local radio club. Not wishing to turn up there alone, he talked my husband, Mick, into joining with him.

The weeks passed and Mick began to really get the feel for electronics and threw himself into the course whilst my poor old dad thought it was all beginning to get rather difficult when suddenly, and most conveniently for him, he lost his RAE course manual. He gave up.

Mick continued to the bitter end and was soon a regular mobile on our local Hastings repeater as G11GM. They were an enthusiastic bunch in the Hastings Electronics and Radio Club in those days and it wasn't long before he was talked into going for the Morse test.

For someone with no ear for languages, it was a difficult task and, after the first failed exam, it was up to me, the enthusiastic other half, to help him learn the dreaded CW. I am lucky enough to have a good ear with four foreign language 'O' levels and I accidentally learnt Morse to 12 WPM whilst trying to help Mick.

As soon as we realised what had happened, Mick persuaded me to enrol on the September RAE Course at the club. It seemed very easy to start with and, on impulse, I enrolled for the December exam. I'd forgotten that I had failed physics and chemistry 'O' level three times at school and I was horrified as the course became more and more difficult as the weeks passed.

Two weeks before the exam, Mick insisted that the next two weekends were to be spent by me sitting and reading the course manual whilst he would take over the running of the household, including the cooking, washing-up, and changing the baby's nappy! That was an offer I could not refuse!

The beginning of December arrived all too soon and I took the RAE on the Monday. On the Friday, we took our Morse test side by side at Tonbridge. The members there were so friendly that they really put us at ease. A few days later, we both knew that we had passed the Morse and Mick got his new callsign G0GKL a few days after Christmas.

He bought himself an FT77 with just 10 watts output and put up a G5RV in the garden. He soon had a few

European contacts in the log but he never really enjoyed DXing.

In mid-February 1986, the RAE results arrived and I found that I had passed! I was soon on the air as G0GRK.

The DX bug really bit and, as soon as our toddler was at nursery school and the baby was asleep every morning, I was on the radio DXing. By December, I had worked my first 100 countries and I claimed the DXCC Jubilee Award for working 100 countries in that year. By then, we had upgraded to a Yaesu FT757GX but still used the G5RV for the antenna.

Now six years later, my countries total stands at 258 worked and 230 confirmed still using only 100 watts but now with a G4ZU beam.

But it seems, as our children grow older, there is less and less time to spend on the radio. It may not be that, of course, as for the last couple of years, I have been working part time in a bank, accommodating foreign students in our house all year long and selling Avon. Mick has been virtually unemployed for the last year but he has just about obtained a new job which should release me from the students and the Avon so hopefully I shall be able to get back into the amateur radio scene next year.

Mick's radio interests now lie in packet and electronic construction projects. He built my HF antenna - it is now mark 3 following two near hurricanes but it works very well indeed.

You may well ask what happened to the person who started this all off? My Dad. Well, he passed his Novice exam in February this year and is the proud user of the callsign 2E1ASE who can frequently be found on the Hastings 70cm repeater. He is now looking for someone to teach him the RAE but our local club has relaxed into apathy now and only

runs a Novice course. If they can't find another instructor, they may not be able to offer that soon.

But, of course, my Dad didn't want to attend the course on his own! Our young son, Tristan, went with him. He took the exam just a few days before his tenth birthday and passed. So 2EIASF, Tristan, can also frequently be found on the local 70cm repeaters. We have already lost our FT790 to him and he is threatening to take the Morse test for his

'A' Novice licence. I wonder who will be the first Novice to work 100 countries and gain membership of CDXC?

Last of all, I must mention our two German relatives who are also recently licensed Hans DC7GF and his son, Christian, who is DH7AFB. Christian caught the radio bug from us a few years ago....

Ed. And the epidemic spreads!!

Big QRK Performance For Small Change

by Keith Evans, G3VKW.

Having moved house 2 years ago and after the trauma of getting Planning Permission, due to an unfriendly neighbour complaining about a beautiful P60 Versatower, which had been "planted" in my new garden, thoughts were in my mind of what kind of antenna I could adorn the top of it with, once the dust had settled.

I had for many years been using a trusty old Hygain TH3 Mk3, of 1970 vintage which, had seen me to Honor Roll. However I had never been very happy with its 15m performance, and also with a growing interest in a New Mode called C.W. I found the bandwidth very poor, and also no facility to work the WARC. bands, seemed to suggest "It would have to go".

Having started looking into the various antennas which were available in "G Land" I realised this was not a good idea, because for some reason I couldn't replace the Old Beam for the same money £38, and it seemed I had to add a zero to the price at least. However, help was at hand. My dear YL had designs on a trip

to the U.S.A., and a visit to the Local "Outlet" produced their latest catalogue and price list. Towards the end of our stay I returned to the "Outlet" with my new XYL, and looked at the size of the boxes the shortlist of antennas came in. Well, I decided to buy a Vibroplex Paddle instead.

Back home after the Jet Lag had worn off, a message arrived via the Cluster from Bill G3MCS to tell me a company locally to me was a "Cane Merchant"?? This transpires to mean a stockist of Bamboo Canes. I had together with Phil G4UDU, made up two Quad Spiders of the design in Bill Orr's Quad Handbook by the Local Blacksmith, which after the move had hidden themselves in the garage, hoping never to be seen by me again, however this didn't work, and after a dust off they were taken down to the Shed. A phone call provided the directions to the cane suppliers warehouse, and Dick G0LFF and his trusty Van and I set off into Rural Sussex. Dick and I selected eight 15 foot canes (from 000's) and paid the man a

Princely sum of £20 and some pence for them.

At home the tin of Varnish was opened and all the canes thickly covered. Next a 100m reel of wire was scrounged from Derek G4BLX, and Dick and I with a tape measure cut 6 loops from the Quad Handbook dimensions.

Up went the new Quad. Gosh, what a Beautiful sight!! Well Jane said it looked better than the Angular Metal TH3, as it was more natural, being made of Wood, like trees and blended into the countryside better because of the peculiar angles??? I guess we'll never understand women. I think it looks Gigantic.

I had prior to taking down the TH3, done some tests with Derek G4BLX who, due to his QTH, is virtually line of sight with me about 4 miles away, on 20/15/10m to determine the power needed for an "S9" Signal. So a quick call on 2mtrs to Derek for a test on 15mtrs. Well what a Super Antenna, so G4DYO and G3FXB say, it was 1/2 an "S Unit" Down ????

Prior to building the Quad Al '3FXB had said it was difficult to get decent Antenna wire these days, and recounted a story of his about a Quad, built for Field Day by his Local Club, which used different coloured wire for the Loops, for identifying which Loops were for which Band, and that whilst testing it, found that it didn't work very well. A GDO found that the various Loops were well LF of the required frequencies, so they used different wire, and away it went.

A Phone call to Al put me in my place, "I told you not to use Plastic Coated Wire, It upsets the Velocity Factor". So down came the Quad, and around came Dick, and we re-strung the Loops with 16 swg Hard drawn Copper. A futher test on 15m with Derek, and

"WOW" a 1/2 "S" point improvement on the TH3.

The Quad was used for a few weeks, with mediocre results, about the same as the TH3 it seemed, so what next? A chat with David G3FPQ suggested I check the Feeder Loss, so out came the Bird, Off came the Quad (from the Feeder) and the Open Termination S.W.R test done from the ARRL Antenna Handbook. Surprise Surprise, 14Mhz 2.9db, 21Mhz 3.5db, 28 Mhz 4.4db. Hmmm Fortunately I was going to replace the Feeder, it was put in temporarily to work the XY0RR Dxpediton, and had a long length of LDF 450 Heliac donated to me, by an Anonymous Benefactor. I needed it as I found the new feeder run measured 280 feet!!! So the Heliac now runs from the Shack to the Base of the Tower, and the Loss now to the Feed Point is 1.8db on 29.7 mhz. A Vast improvement.

So what about the Quad? Well I don't need the Linear any more, except for the "tough ones", and I don't think I'll be going back to a Yagi, as my Peers G3FXB, G4DYO, G3FPQ, have stated many times in the past.

The moral is Get your Feeder Losses down as low as possible, and don't forget the Basics (Velocity Factors).. before you discard an antenna as not working.

For info:

TH3..S9 = 8 watts 14150 mhz
Quad.. S9 = 1/2 Watt "Nuff Said"??

Keith G3VKW.

DXPEDITION TO VE8 AND VE2 (PART 2)

by Martin, G3ZAY

The last newsletter left Tom, WT2O, and I checking into an Ottawa motel at 2300 for a few hours sleep before an 0530 alarm call and an 0700 flight to Sept Iles via Montreal and Quebec City. It was to be the busiest day of the trip as we had to pick up equipment in the town of Sept Iles and get to Havre St Pierre (200 kms east of Sept Iles) by 1600 to meet the boatman who was to take us to the Mingan Islands.

Fortunately our flight was on time and we had soon picked up a rental car and driven to the QTH of Jean-Claude, VE2XY. He had taken an early lunch-break and was waiting in his driveway with a small Honda generator on loan from VE2MDQ. On to town for food supplies, a tarpaulin to cover the generator (and our luggage) in case of rain, a petrol container, and more methanol for my camping stove (pity you can't take it on 'planes). Then, back to the airport to rendez-vous with Jean Blanchette and collect car batteries. (Those who read the story of my last visit to Sept Iles will remember Jean as the helicopter mechanic who generously arranged for me to use his family's cabin on Grande Basque Is for the first operation from NA125 and helped out with extra equipment.)

We hit the road for Havre St Pierre not a moment too soon at around 1330 and were going to have to keep up a good pace to make the 1600 meeting with the boatman. For the first 100 kms the road was superb; broad and straight, soaring over massive rivers and waterfalls, and hugging the coast in

places where the hills came close to the sea. That it led nowhere in particular was obvious from the scarcity of traffic; perhaps half a dozen cars an hour from the other direction. Havre St Pierre was until recently the literal end of the road but it now goes a few kms further and may eventually reach the Quebec-Labrador border if the money doesn't run out. The villages along the way already seemed to have closed up for the winter; shuttered motels, boats pulled out of the water, and deserted streets. Only the bright blue Quebec flags fluttering from the flagpoles gave some sign of human existence.

The last 25 kms into town were a narrow causeway of soft dirt in which our heavily laden and softly suspended rental car developed a will of its own trying to crab sideways or slide over the edge in response to the underlying ruts! Somehow we made it to the visitor centre of the Parc National de L'Archipel du Mingan and checked in with the duty warden to receive our camping permits, and read and sign the rules (luckily nothing about radios being forbidden - though we had already received special clearance from the Park Director, Monsieur Denis Godin).

Our boatman was waiting for us at the jetty with his speedboat the "Taxi des Iles" and after a short spell of back-breaking work unloading the car and carrying everything down to the jetty, we were en-route to Quarry Island.

The scenery was a little disappointing as the islands are all low lying and heavily forested. Until you get up close they are just dark lines on the

horizon. As we approached the landing stage at Quarry Island we realised with horror that it was some 1/3rd of a mile from the camping area and it looked as though we'd have to carry everything along the beach. But we were in luck, there was a yacht tied up at the jetty and its owner loaned us his zodiac to ferry all our kit across the bay.

As always, getting on the air was the first priority so while I assembled the Butternut, Tom shinned up a couple of pine trees and erected a 20m dipole. The trees were not as tall as they seemed and the dipole centre piece was little more than 10 feet off the ground but it did generate a few QSOs while the Butternut went together. We were QRV by 2300z but it had been a long day, propagation was poor, and we turned in fairly early.

There was some consolation for the poor conditions as the aurora laid on a beautiful display for us. A whole area of sky would turn milky, as if high cloud was drifting across, then brighten and shimmer. If the effect finished over the forest it looked as though the trees were sending up beams of light. The total silence that accompanied the display felt wrong; one's brain expected some sort of noise and one couldn't stop one's ears straining to catch some slight whisper from the sky.

We arrived back in Sept Iles around 1800 on Saturday and checked in to a hotel on the quayside next to the departure point for the "Bateaux Croisieres de Sept Iles". Our flight on Sunday was not until 1530 so we thought we'd try to get out to one of the Sept Iles islands for a few hours on Sunday morning. Unfortunately there didn't seem to be a departure any earlier than 1100 or a return until 1600 so things looked grim, but on explaining our predicament one of the men agreed to take us in his speed-

boat at 0800 so that we could come back at 1130 when the 1100 out-bound boat would be returning. All worked well and we had 2 hours QRV on 14260 with about 200 QSOs in the log.

As the crow flies, Gaspé is only about 100 miles south of Sept Iles but unfortunately the airline knows more about hubs and spokes than crows so we had to backtrack as far as Quebec City before heading east on a flight bound for the Madeleine Is. Reaching Gaspé around 1930 in the evening we immediately set about our most urgent task (one that had been worrying me since before leaving the UK); tracking down a car battery to use on Bonaventure Island where there would be no other power source. We drew a blank at the first three garages but finally got lucky at a ramshackle filling station along the main road where "le patron" agreed to rent us a new one for \$10 per day.

Monday morning we were up bright and early to get all our kit down to the quayside, the rental car parked, and its battery removed (in that order!). We hoped that the two batteries would last us for the Monday/Tuesday operation and planned for one to be brought back to the mainland by the boat operator for an overnight re-charge.

Bonaventure Island is a Quebec State Park and the Park Director, Monsieur Bernard Major, had given us special permission to stay overnight (normally the island is uninhabited after the last boat at 1600). In the 19th and early 20th centuries the island supported a substantial fishing community which was dominated by the LeBouthillier company from Jersey. Many of the houses and barns remain, including the LeBouthillier mansion, and have been carefully restored. One of them, used by

park employees on overnight stays, was made available to us for the expedition.

Unfortunately we were a little late starting up as the 0900 boat was cancelled because of lack of demand but there was a good crowd for the 1000 and we were on the island by about 1045 after a tour of the immense sea-bird colonies, the Park's main raison d'etre. The WX was excellent so we set the Butternut up next to one of the benches and operated in the open for the first few hours.

RF conditions were still poor and gradually got worse during our stay. The best European conditions were during the first few hours of activity. On the plus side we were able to take a few hours off to stroll along some of the hiking trails around the island without feeling too guilty about missed QSOs, and did manage some 750 contacts by the time we went QRT on Tuesday afternoon.

All in all, a very enjoyable and successful DXpedition which could not

have happened without the help of numerous individuals including:

Larry Horlick VE8HL

(Iqaluit)

Elijah Evaluarjuk (Manager, Tujormivik Hotel, Igloolik)

Fellow guests at Igloolik who tolerated TVI levels that would have our UK neighbours screaming at the door!

Larry Whittaker, VE8AW.

Jean-Claude, VE2XY.

VE2MDQ.

Jean Blanchette.

M. Denis Godin (Director, Mingan National Park)

M. Bernard Major (Director, Parc du Rocher Perce et de l'Ile Bonaventure)

Staff members of the Bonaventure State Park.

Garry VE3XN.

(With apologies to anyone omitted.)

160 - ANOTHER DEVALUATION ?

by Ron, GW3YDX

(This piece has been taken from the PacketCluster for wider circulation.)

Listening around 160m last night I was appalled to find a DX net in progress. I heard a Belgian station (a VERY famous one) guessing a report from a UH8. He guessed 55, but the "MC" said "Readability OK but the strength is better. I am pleased to say that the Belgian station gave up at that point.

More typically of course, another couple of wild guesses would have secured a "QSO" (what a joke) and a tick in the appropriate box.

Now I have no objection to that on 3795, 14220, and other places where, essentially, repeater QSO's take place, but I had hoped we could keep 160 as special. A refuge for people who work DX by their efforts and not through those of intermediaries.

Perhaps I am wrong. Maybe I can't stop the rot, and I am certainly not advocating any disruption of the net. If people wish to kid themselves that they

have made a contact by such means - OK.

However may I make a plea to those who have any respect for the special qualities of 160 (hard work and patience - high power has little to do with

it). Please don't encourage the vile cancer of nets on to 160.

Please keep the band what it is - SPECIAL.

73. Ron

CDXC CONTESTING

(Paul Evans, G4BKI)

A lamentable state of affairs.....

I'm afraid I hadn't quite appreciated the ingress of 'The Partial' into pile-up and contesting operating until a few months ago. Picture me warming up the bands about 2 hours before the start of WPX SSB. It was 21MHz first, followed by 14MHz later. One call brought back a huge pile-up of W's and the test run of K1EA was climbing to 290 as a rate. Until the pile-up reached about that point it was reasonably well behaved. Then I started to get 'The Partial'. "QRZ? from GW8GT". "NM". "The NM, you're 59, no partials please". The flood gates had just started to open. Over the next ten minutes the pile-up started to consist more and more of 'The Partial' until it was little else! Despite saying "no partials" each call, it made no difference. When I could bear it no longer, I quit and moved band. Of course, the same phenomenon occurred there. Even more lamentable was that the highest rate points of the contest, once it had started, were punctuated by the same problem. Naturally, they no longer became the high rate points as the partials slowed things down.

What kind of nonsense is this? Generally in contests a high rate operator (and therefore probably quite well known) will ALWAYS go back to a call he has copied completely first. This

allows the 'normal' contest exchange. A partial requires a request for the call 'proper' and a later confirmation of getting it right at the end of the contact.

Every contest operating ethic says that a good operator is one who trains to extract complete calls as much as possible. To be fed with partials blows this out of the water. I'm even more amazed that this practice appears to be creeping into CW operating, particularly in contests, where it can totally destroy the rate.

I hope (& believe) that I'm preaching to the converted in this country so these words are probably wasted, but the bottom line is:

DON'T USE PARTIALS, IT'S A WASTE OF EVERYBODY'S TIME
[and it's against licence regulations].

I would personally go as far as to say that the use of the partial should be outlawed in contests under our control (RSGB, CDXC, etc.) and that stations heard doing it should be warned that it is not in the spirit of the contest to operate in this way. Maybe if we can foster good operating practice we can slow down or reverse the rot setting into our contesting standards. In so doing we might just attract a bigger following.

Good Luck & good operating.

CONTEST NEWS

CQWW CW

CDXC hurriedly made up a multi single team for CQWW CW. Operators were G0HSD, G3OZF, G4DQW and G0LMX. This was organised at very short notice and was therefore not publicised in advance. A full report up on how the team did will appear next time.

EI5DI "Super Duper" Log Programme

The HF Contests committee would like to hear from anyone who has used this programme and what they think of it. Please send you comments to G0HSD either by post, or PacketCluster.

RSGB IOTA CONTEST

Those of you at the HF Convention will know that the RSGB HF

Contests Committee have launched this brand new SSB contest. Full rules will appear in Rad Com in the next few months and also in the CDXC Newsletter nearer the time. The contest is scheduled for the last weekend in July and is a must for all island chasers, contesters and DXpeditioner alike!

OUCH!!

From Brian, G4ODV

A glance through the CQWW CW results for 1991, CQ mag Oct 92, show an entry under Africa from Comoros by D68GA who scored 1.6M points with a single band entry on 28MHz. Unfortunately the entry was disqualified due to the late arrival arrival of the log. On another page of the CQ mag there is a list of World Record Holders, the World Record for 28MHz was broken in 1991 by ZS6BCR and the new World Record figure is 1.2M points!! OUCH!

CQ WIBBLEY WOBBLEY

or How Not To Set Out For A New Record

By Andrew Shaw, G0HSD

At last thing were coming together. It was March and my travel plans were beginning to take shape. Steve P29DX and I hatched a plan to make an attempt at the Oceania Record in the CQ World Wide SSB Contest, something which at that time was easily beatable but on later analysis we discovered that KH0AM smashed it last year with a massive 11.1 million points. Things were looking good and I settled back and continued saving.

July arrived and the weeks on my countdown chart by my desk were rapidly decreasing. I had planned to fly to Brisbane and catch a connecting flight to Port Moresby about five days before the contest. I decided it was time to book the tickets and the day I reached for the phone we had a briefing at work. The offer of voluntary redundancy was imminent. 'Hold on!' I thought. A rough calculation revealed that it would be worth my while applying, in the hope that

I would be able to leave in a month or so. So I never picked up the phone.

After a few weeks I realised that time was short and I was eventually told that I would not hear anything until early October. I had to leave Steve and Don, G3OZF, in the lurch and wait (going to university next year ∴ need money!!). Early October duly arrived and I was told that the decision had been postponed until December.

Paul G4BKI had in the mean time offered me a place in the GW8GT team for their multi-multi effort. As the fateful weekend finally approached I learned that the builders were coming to the HSD QTH to rip out 3 bedrooms, a bathroom, a loo and an airing cupboard and put them back again. This meant totally dissembling the shack, so plans for a last minute entry from home were dashed and I was batting for P29DX from G as well. I decided all this was too much and to forget CQ totally. The weekend before the contest an emergency plumbing expedition found the septic tank in a chronic state and advice from the engineer was that the whole garden had to be dug up, antennas and all. I found out on the Thursday that this would happen on the Monday, so I had little alternative but to spend the weekend emptying the shack and ripping up radial systems.

A phone call from Paul on Thursday night made me feel a twinge of envy and I started to try and find a plan that meant I could join the lads in Wales for some of the time and still have enough weekend to work on the station here. A plan was formulated and I decided to hammer down the M4 on the Saturday morning and operate for the afternoon through evening in order to save the chaps voices a little for the rest of the contest.

Friday night arrived and for the first time I went to the pub on the evening before CQ. In a way I was glad, because my favourite barmaid was on duty and made the evening a delight.

Saturday arrived as did the hangover. I worked GW8GT on 10m and told them I was on my way. Swallowed some bran flakes and Paracetamol and jumped in the car. I arrived at the sign for the Severn Bridge and realised I had no cash for the toll. I then spent a frantic half hour getting off the motorway and looking for a cash point, while still trying to keep the speed up.

Finally found my way to Blackwood in South Wales, having passed the GW4BLE shack in Newport (I decided not to call, Steve, any other day I might have!). After asking several people, I found the GW8GT site. After seeing the 40m Quad and having picked myself up off the ground, I made my presence known. After a swift cup of tea, I was put on the 20m station and was greeted by an S9+20db noise level. A few hours later I was let loose on the 15m station. I was enjoying this! I was using an Omni V, a rig I has never used, and was amazed how quiet things were. You could easily pick out those weak 'bit'o'wet string' Ws that normally get lost in the crud.

After about a 3 1/2 hour slot on 15m I was finally relieved. I said my good-byes to all the operators and made headlong for the M4 in order to get back at a reasonable hour in order to scout around for P20A.

First thing on the Sunday morning I scoured the bands for Don and Steve. No sign of them at all... things must be bad. The bands were wide open to JA, VK etc. but nothing from P29. I started to dissemble the station as the builders were coming the following day. The day

passed slowly. In the evening I hit the bands again just to have a look round. I missed the excitement of CQ. For the last few years I had been trying to attain higher and higher scores and to improve my own skills as an operator. This year was a bit of an anti-climax, apart from the few hours at GT.

Feeling fed up, I made for the pub. Emma was once again on duty. Her car

had broken down, her hair was soft and her eyes warm and gentle. Her knight put on his shining armour and left the worries of the contest behind him.

(I would like to thank Paul, G4BK1, and all the other members of GW8GT for a wonderful few hours and to Henry, G3GIQ for some sound advice many years ago.)

PAPUA NEW GUINEA - CQWW 1992

By Don Beattie, G3OZF/P29VZF

The possibility of a serious multi-single entry from PNG for the 1992 CQWW contest was first suggested in discussions with Steve, P29DX (G4JVG) who is on a three year tour in PNG. Steve has the use of the Laloki radio monitoring station near Port Moresby, which, apart from being in a very quiet location electrically, has the added advantage of big towers, lots of space and professional wideband antennas and high power amplifiers.

In early 1992 the plan developed seriously, with both Andrew, G0HSD and myself agreeing to go to PNG for the contest. I had hoped to combine the visit with a business trip to VK, and Andrew hoped it would be the first leg of his planned Pacific trip.

Life is never that simple. Andrew found that work commitments meant that he could not make the trip - he will probably go later. Although I had been three times to VK earlier in 1992, the timing of the CQWW did not align with business need to go again and so I decided to use some of my frequent flier miles, and travel to PNG specifically to

operate CQWW and as P29VZF for a few days either side of the contest.

Arrangements were made and I left on 20th October. On arrival at Singapore, a phone call from Steve told me that Steve's employer, PTC (Posts & Telecommunications Corporation of PNG) had withdrawn the use of the Laloki radio station for amateur use. And this, 72 hours before the contest! We agreed I would still continue to PNG and we would make the most of the opportunity to make some serious noise from there, but using Steve's home station.

After a second overnight flight, I arrived in Port Moresby early on the Friday, 23rd October to be met by Steve and Eva, who were only back a few days earlier from their Pacific trip. Whilst Steve was at work that day, I prepared the antennas - which were, by necessity, modest in view of the short notice we had about Laloki. No beams - just a pair of Butternut verticals and a dipole. Steve and I considered whether to use a "run" station and a "multiplier" station, but in view of the close proximity of all the antennas, we elected to keep to a single

station, recognising that this too would reduce the score rate.

Over the 48 hours of the contest, we made some 3,000 QSOs - very modest, but considering that none of the antennas were more than 30 ft high, and all were very close to the house, we didn't think it too bad. Score was about 3.5M points.

After the contest, I took the opportunity to see a little of the country, flying up to the spectacular North coast at Madang. PNG has a wild and rugged hinterland, with dense jungle, and wildly inhospitable mountains. No TVI problems here. Rather a shortage of 240v AC however, and a real problem with natives with machetes ! In most major towns, houses are surrounded by steel fences and razor wire. The houses are grouped into compounds with 24 hour security guards on the gates. Parts of PNG have a bad reputation for violence, although I saw little evidence of this at first hand.

In between seeing a little of the country, I operated as P29VZF, but the propagation to Europe was poor, and most operation was into the US and Japan, and all on CW. Apologies to all who were wanting P29 on WARC CW. Perhaps next year! The operation gave me the opportunity to experience at close quarters the absolute discipline of the JA pile-up. What a pleasure it was to work each station on a completely clear freq, even 'though the pile calling each time had been enormous. Europe take note!

Steve arranged a meeting of the local amateur group in Moresby - Paul, P29PL, Gordon, P29ZGD, Shoji, P29JA all came to the local aero club for a few beers. Contrary to popular belief there is a lot of P29 activity - all are keen operators both on CW and SSB and the local P29RPM repeater on 146.00 seems

to carry traffic very similar to 144.525 in the UK! During CQWW there were a number of other stations active and one US station commented to me that he had never heard so many P29s during a contest. Steve has been encouraging everyone to take contests seriously, and seems to be having some success ! Incidentally, Steve believes that he may have the only linear amplifier in PNG. Most P29s run 100w to a 3 element beam or vertical.

There is little doubt that the location of PNG is good for HF contests. The path into US and JA is excellent, and had we had the use of Laloki, I believe the result would have been very interesting. Steve is now investigating other possible contest station locations. We shall have to wait and see ...

All too soon, the week's visit came to an end and it was time to say goodbye to Steve and Eva, who had been wonderful hosts. Air Niugini delayed their weekly flight back to Singapore by 8 hours for technical reasons. As a result, I missed the connection to the daily London flight. I eventually made it back to Heathrow at 6.00 on a cold Monday morning after 48 hours travelling - only to leave on a business trip to Helsinki four hours later !

I think Murphy must have been at work again whilst I was away.

IOTA Spreads still further!!

Tnx John, G3AEZ

KMA has been branching out! A racehorse named IOTA came first in the 3.30 at Doncaster a few weeks ago. Fancy a flutter?

From Steve Cole, GW4BLE

Well the CQWW phone is now history. When this is being typed it's a week after the contest and the logs are all ready to mail. To think just a few years ago the post-contest work would take anything up to a month after the actual contest and these days we are ready to mail the log minutes after the final QSO! Things have changed!

We were certainly blessed with some good conditions this year - almost as good a 1990, but not quite. Two years ago I ended up with around 6.3 million, whereas this time around it was 6.07. Still I'm not complaining and just hope the elusive Nr. 1 Europe might be mine this time! I missed about ninety minutes or so on Saturday evening as I had to go outside and crank my tower down and re-position my slopers (also re-tune the shunt feed on Top-Band); all this in the

dark, with help from the XYL with a torch! The remainder of the contest was spent with the tower no higher than 35'.

The actual "bottom-line" from the CT programme shows:

4087 Net QSOs, 10922 points,
2.67 Pts/QSO, 132 Zones, 424 Countries
for a final claimed score of 6,072,632.

I guess Steve, P29DX must have been feeling pretty sick after being so badly let down by the PTC guys out in Papua New Guinea. My commiseration's to him and Don.

My XYL thinks that I should try it from a multi-op next year (strange, I seem to recall Roger 'SXW saying the same thing at Windsor....is it a set-up or what! HI!)

Cheers for now,
Steve, GW4BLE

RAMBLINGS OF A DX EDITOR

(Brendan McCartney, G4DYO)

To anyone who needed convincing: the last month or so has proved yet again that "DX IS". Carl & Martha Henson appeared from Ethiopia and later from Eritrea, which they believe should be reinstated to the DXCC List. Full details about Eritrea appeared in DX News Sheet and I do not propose to repeat them here except to say that there will be a lot of discussion about this one in the months to come following submission of their petition to the ARRL. Jim Smith's HIDXA DXpedition to Willis Island made many DXers happy, despite fairly weak signals which was largely due to weight restrictions preventing the team from taking QRO gear. Jim told me that the £900 donations from CDXC and readers of DXNS

enabled them to stay on the island somewhat longer than originally anticipated. I know some people object to the principle of financing DXpeditions, but it gives the average operator who could never afford to join such an operation the chance to "do their bit" for their hobby. VU2CVP showed up unannounced from the Laccadives as VU7CVP and our own superb DXpedition Team of G3SXW, G3TXF and G4FAM fairly took the bands apart from Swaziland. What more could we ask? Congratulations to all the operators involved for keeping DXing alive when the word on the lips of many was about declining sunspots. If further proof was needed that conditions had not completely deteriorated Fred, G4BWP and John,

G4DQW worked 100 DXCC countries on 10m in just over 6 hours in the CQWW SSB Contest in October! Yes, DX most certainly IS!

The DX Magazine has just published the results of its 1992 Most Wanted Country Survey, which is recognised as the standard among DXers and provides much useful material for those planning DXpeditions. You will have seen the results in DX News Sheet but there is no substitute for the full survey, which comes complete with Chod Harris's inspired comments, news and predictions. The DX Magazine is great value for HF DXers. Contact me for details of subscription rates, etc. Thinks... why isn't a similar magazine published in the UK?

As this article was being written in early November Ian Shepherd announced that he had signed up as a team member for the forthcoming Baker & Howland Islands DXpedition. The very, very, best of luck Ian. Have a great time, work plenty of G's (especially on the WARC bands) and have a safe trip back home. Keep a eye on DX News Sheet for the very latest news on this important DXpedition, which could provide your last chance to work KH1 for some years. In the Most Wanted Country Survey referred to earlier KH1 was at No.18 world-wide and No.2 - yes, number two - on the European list. A couple of years ago that spot was occupied by no less than Burma, which is a fair indication of how many of the Deserving need it. KH1 was at No.1 in the CDXC Most Wanted Countries Survey conducted earlier this year with some 94% of the membership needing it. The last operation was by led by Jim Smith and signed NO1Z/KH1 in March, 1988; conditions to Europe during that operation were not spectacular and the

majority of QSOs were on 20m with a few on 15m. There were no reports of UK stations working them on the LF bands. If the trip comes off in January there will be a lot of chasing of band slots. Remember, all you 5BWAZ chasers - KH1 is in Zone 31, possibly the most difficult zone to work on 80m from Europe. I need a single contact with that one on 80m to give me all 200, but I very much doubt if KH1 will provide it.

To secure that last, much needed contact I might be tempted to get up early a couple of mornings, but propagation predictions do not look too promising. Assuming a Solar Flux figure of 100 (which may be somewhat optimistic) the best chance of working KH1 in January looks to be short path on 30m, with openings possible throughout the day from 08-1800z. Other bands offer short openings: 40m 06-0800, 20m 10-1400, 17m 10-1200, 15m 1200; 10m looks like being a dead-duck. Long path openings are potentially possible on 15m from 08-1400 and 16-1800, but signals will be right down in the noise and almost certainly unworkable. Good luck if you need it.

*It's not a matter of life or death.
It's worse than that!*

As DXNS readers are aware, Ed Kritsky has brought up the oft-debated subject of dupe contacts with DXpedition stations operating from rare countries. Ed's article was based on information about dupe contacts derived from the XY0RR log and it produced responses from several DXNS readers. Roger Western, G3SXW, pointed out that the total amateurs making dupe contacts was but a tiny percentage of all who worked XY0RR and suggested that poor operating techniques can have a

significant effect on the number of dupes. Jim McDougall, GM3CIX was emphatically anti-dupers and felt that such behaviour is typical of the increasing bad conduct to be heard on our bands. The frustration felt by those who either have inferior stations or cannot be on the bands at the right times (surely THE most relevant factor?) is understandable when they have missed working a new one only to discover that someone down the street has made half a dozen "rock-solid" contacts with the station. I do not dupe contacts, being satisfied with insurance contacts on other bands/modes, and have an open view on the subject, although I agree that five contacts with XY0RR on the same band/mode was taking things a bit far!

Before castigating the "DX Hogs" let's consider some other viewpoints.

Firstly, among the culprits in the XY0RR log was a G operator who is not a member of CDXC and not a reader of DX News Sheet; could this be significant? We all assume that those hollering alongside us in pile-ups are well versed in the complex rituals of DXing, fully au fait with the "Rules of Encounter" and thoroughly familiar with operating etiquette on our crowded bands. This is not always the case; the accused (convicted and found guilty in his absence!) party could well be a totally innocent ham going about his lawful business of making the odd QSO here and there. He may be totally unaware that working the same station more than once on a band/mode is frowned upon when that station is in a mega-rare country. Not all radio amateurs are members of their national societies, even fewer are subscribers to DX-oriented magazines and bulletins and fewer still belong to DX clubs. By way of example, in the UK there are only around 600 readers of the

DX News Sheet, some of whom are SWLs and Class B licensees and only 130-odd members of CDXC. BUT, many of these "non-aligned" operators may be keen "DXers" in their own way and enjoy working stations around the world and it would be stupid to suggest that they are any less capable than the comparative few of us who think we a) know all the rules and b) would like to impose them on all HF operators.. We could call it ignorance, but there is no law to say that a licensed amateur MUST belong to his national society (thank God!), and no law to say he MUST subscribe to DX bulletins, PacketCluster, DX Club, etc., etc. We should not, therefore, attach blame to these people when their calls appear in dupe lists but should we communicate with them, educate them in "our" ways??

Secondly, there has always been the feeling among some amateurs that once a country has been worked one must never even consider working it again, lest someone who needs it misses out. I agreed with that attitude some years ago, but how stupid I was and how narrow-minded are those who subscribe to this view. Do we spend our hard earned QRK equipping ourselves with top-line stations just to work all DXCC and then no more? Of course not. DXing is a continuously enjoyable pastime and just because I worked Glorioso in 1978 I don't see why I should be banned from working it again now, regardless of whether I have the slot confirmed ten times over. When I first became licensed I used to spend several hours almost every day working ZL stations. I have relatives there and the magic of being able to talk to someone living a few doors from my sister-in-law was magic (and it still is!). At the time it hardly dawned on me that I was being a "DX Hog" every day and

depriving others from making contact with ZL. It wasn't until just a couple of years ago that I discovered that in those times past a number of G's were extremely annoyed that during the few minutes they had to spare each morning between getting up and going to work the only ZLs they could hear all seemed to be working G4DYO! "Why did you do it, Bren? Didn't you realise how much I wanted to work ZL - you never gave me a chance". I've searched my soul over those comments and in all honesty I can say that I did not intend to prevent others making contacts. I was having enjoyable, albeit long, ragchews with ZL stations and I still believe that those who complained could have done the same if they had really tried, but I'm sure my actions lost me a few friends in the past.

So it's not only "rare" DX that attracts the DX Hogs! I might be able to ragchew at S9++ with ZL but there are bands where I stand little chance of working DX and I don't complain about the actions of those with better antennas who can enjoy those bands to the full... I have what can only be described as an ultra-inferior 80m antenna - an inverted-Vee which spends half its life laying on the grass, or at half-mast providing perches for the starlings - and there are a number of countries I would dearly love to work on 80m..... I often hear them, but they always seem to be in QSO with the same bunch of G's who "hog" the DX window on 80m every day leaving little chance for anyone else, unless one is prepared to stoop to the depths of a list contact, or relayed report, etc. But do I publish the calls of these operators? Of course not. DXing is a diverse hobby within a diverse hobby - eighteen times squared and twice removed! Some who call themselves DXers are content to work EU on 20m whilst to others that

would be so much QRM, but they enjoy the contacts - boring as they seem to those of us with planet-crushing mega stations. So what of the "DX Hog" - he who makes several contacts with rare DX - should we really criticise him for enjoying himself? I don't think so. Not all of those responsible are "True-blue" DXers and probably have no idea of the significance to more serious DXers of the result of their actions.

Of course there always has to be a punch-line. As I wipe away the tear of sympathy for the small-time, innocent G who has been "black-listed" for working XY0RR five times on the same band and mode I wonder.... how come he did it in split-frequency pile-ups? Anyone got some wire cutters?

The South Sandwich video is most enlightening. Thule Island is no place to go for a casual afternoon's bird-watching that's for sure. Having heard the facts from the operators and having read the lengthy article by WA4JQS I can only say that the 30-minute video does the DXpedition no justice. It certainly shows us (briefly) the dreadful conditions they had to put up with and something of the diet - meals squeezed from a tube astronaut-style (none of the Fastnet Rock cheesecake down there! Hi!) - and what the Americans might call "compact accommodation", but it could have been twice or three times longer. One thing is certain, all those guys who say "we'll put an extra IRC in with our QSL" when asked to donate to such operations should be forced to watch the South Sandwich video!

Interesting note on the Cluster recently from a 160m user. The chap had suffered an attack of the vapours after hearing a list being run on the "gentlemen's band". He seemed to approve of such dubious behaviour on

20m or 80m but was desperate to prevent the spread of the awful infection of list-operating on to Top Band. I agree wholeheartedly with his desire to rid his favourite band of lists and nets; True-Blue DXers work DX on a one-to-one basis and don't need spoonfeeding. The WARC bands are of particular interest to me and I would have thought *they* were the true "gentlemen's bands" - no contests for starters! Unfortunately my concept was shattered recently... I am sure you are all familiar with the "Net" run by the mega-wide Russian station on 24950. A week or so ago I listened to the obscenity of one of the well-known US "net controllers" attempting to make a contact on that net.... the usual "You got the first number right but the second was a little high...." business. So the garbage is infecting 12m as well as top band. Nothing can be perfect but we should strive to uphold standards on *all* our bands, not just one in particular. And anyone who thinks that there is something special about 160m operators is in cloud-cuckoo land. The majority of DXers would admit to running marginally over the legal limit but there have been stories in the past of G stations running the full gallon on a band where they were limited to 10 watts. You thought CEPT was some sort of licence? No chance, it means "*Coincidental Enhanced Propagation Path*", especially noticeable during topband contests when G signals strangely become enhanced by 10-20dB! During my dealing with a certain official Monitoring Station during the "OY7ML" business I became aware that the authorities were quite aware of the abuse of 160m power levels by some UK operators, but they had limited resources and only took action if severe QRM was caused to commercial stations. The power levels are now similar for all

LF/HF bands but prior to April if HF operators were breaking the speed limit occasionally, some of the 160m "gentlemen" were operating at warp speed. Incidentally, the person who originated the cluster message is one who puts spots on the cluster with the remark "my frequency". Surely any gentleman DXer worth his salt QSYs after being called by a rare DX station to give others the opportunity to work it? The moral is: None of us is perfect.

I'm NOT going to expand on the YU situation. Plenty has appeared in DX News Sheet and a copy of a letter from Laurie, G3UML to ARRL on the subject appears elsewhere. The best advice is to work first, worry later if you hear any unusual YU/4N/S5, etc. callsigns. The buro situation is non-existent; those who wish to QSL can do so direct but what do you imagine the chances are of getting a reply?

Lastly, still on the subject of QSLing, quite often the RSGB buro telephones DXNS for help with QSL routes... Seems a lot of G's have been sending cards to the buro marked "via CBA". Ol' CBA is going to be busy, eh?

As I was about to post this disk news came of the passing of Al Slater, G3FXB. I passed the news to an amateur friend who is not a DXer but knew Al well and said: "*Al WAS British Amateur Radio*". I think that statement sums up everything. Al was a superb operator, a true ambassador for our wonderful hobby, contest operator and winner extraordinary and tireless worker for FOC. The world of amateur radio mourns the loss of one of its truly great members and deepest sympathy goes to Al's widow Maud and their family and to his many friends world-wide

See YOU in the pile-ups?

BEAUMONT HF CONVENTION

RAMBLINGS AFTER THE EVENT

By Bob Whelan, G3PJT

Friday 25th September 06:30

hrs.

Thank goodness the monsoons have broken. The morning didn't look too bad, after the last 2 years of having heavy rain over the HF Convention weekend we might have a chance this year. Into Cambridge to pick up the T shirts, still no sign of the IOTA mugs, hopefully tomorrow. Over to the bank for the cash float, don't forget the marker pens, the sticky tape and all the other thing which make or mar any conference. Pack the car with the Welcome envelopes. A quick call to Roger, G3KMA, my fellow organiser, and off to do battle with the M25. Usual clouds of spray and heavy traffic, so arrive at Beaumont just on time at 12 noon. Several of the US visitors had already arrived, thanks to Henry and Martin. I expected that over 100 people would check in on Friday and 30 countries to check in over the weekend. Soon a steady stream started to arrive, Is, CTs, K5MK, W9DC (from the golf course), no missing envelopes so far! Bren rushes in with a box of coax and the special plaque for the A1-DXer, the Most Difficult Journey DXer and the 3 by 3 award. (for 14260 types).

Walk down to the back of Beaumont to see how the CDXC gang are getting on with the GB1OTA station. The tower's up, but the TH5 is laid out on the ground. Do I have a tape measure they ask? Well no! A bit difficult to get a good front to back without measuring the elements.

Frantic call from Heathrow! Could someone pick up Terry, W6MKB? How did we miss him?! Only the guest speaker! Rush over to Terminal 3, there he is, back to Egham station to pick up my wife, Rosemary. Back to Beaumont, looks like most Friday check-ins are here already. That means that we could have 100 at Roger's for the warm up party tonight, good job we booked a coach to take them there.

Send all the visitors down to the coach, hunt around for any stragglers, none to be found. Off to La Quinta, where the party is in full swing. This is going to be some great weekend the atmosphere is electric, (ethereal?) and very friendly, must be the great food and drink put on by Jill and the 'KMA team. Even the IOTA (or is it the DXNS) palm tree is having a great time! And who's this? The DXNS Editor and Ruth. A new DXer, G0RVN, says that he had never met such a great bunch of people as this! It was already clear that the differences over the IOTA programme were not going to get in the way of having a good time. Later I see a tape measure being furtively passed over to the GB1OTA team!

Saturday 26 September

A bright clear morning with heavy mist, could be a warm day. One of the big (biggest) advantages of the Beaumont is that we can set up Sunday on the Saturday, so no more getting up at the crack of dawn for the organising team. Down for breakfast at 08.00, these IOTA types are starting at 09.15, so need to

man the door and collect a few Day Visitor payments and to hand out the welcome envelopes. Les, GM3ITN, appears 'not sure if he can stay the whole time , but have I got a spare DX Dinner ticket just in case ?'. Conjure up one. I see Les later on Sunday seems like he spent most of the weekend at the Convention! John, G3HTA, appears to give me hand on Reception. The IOTA mugs appear, put some out and Yuki, J16KVR, buys three. Rosemary takes the ladies programme off to Windsor for the morning. The IOTA session starts, no loud voices, looks like they are all in a good mood. A quiet morning with a steady trickle of old friends.

Ladies programme returns, seems like they bought up Windsor. Who paid the coach driver to drop them outside Jaeger of all places ? That's put paid to the new antenna I had planned !

Take a walk up to the other end, looks like things are pretty well set up. The Cluster boys are clustering for their annual meeting. Ross, GW3NWS, stagger past with one of his amplifiers for the talk on the Sunday. The idea of having a room where a lecturer can talk in more detail about his topic and allow people to examine things more closely turns out to be a good one.

Relieve Fred, G4BWP, and Mandy on reception, time is rolling on towards DX Dinner time. Nearly everyone has come only 5 envelopes left.

Quick tidy up of the Reception ready for Sunday and back to the room for a SSS ready for dinner. Down to the bar, run into Don, G3OZF, 'yes everything is fine !'. Lose the invites list for the top table. Find the President and get him to welcome the guests as they come through. Amazingly I find I can remember virtually all the call signs who have booked. Shock horror, we have a

few people left over, how can that be? Of course! We had assumed the tables would fill completely but there are spare seats all over the place. Remember to have a big overflow table kept for stragglers next year. Get everyone sitting down. For the welcome speech I had prepared a skit on CT0COL, Chris, who had been the first IOTA DXpeditioner in 1942. In the haste I forgot it. What a lot of people, biggest DX Dinner I can remember in the UK.

The meal gets started, chat to Bob, W9KNI, about the UK and European economy, heavy small talk for a radio do. Sort of the equivalent small talk about radio in the other life I suppose. Introduce the President who introduces Roger, G3KMA, with the A1 - DXer award from DXNS. Total surprise! For those who didn't see it, it is a large framed commemorative plaque. Really very fine and richly deserved. Greetings from Hans, DJ6TJ, and a speech from Bob, W9KNI, about the early days of his DXing brought back the thrill of the first DX contact. Many plaques and certificates were presented. I gave the Most Difficult Journey to UZ9OA Irina for the trip from Novosibirsk, 2 days on Moscow railway station, (shades of Kings X), and a failed radio on the plane out of St. Petersburg! The 3 by 3 Award to Martin, G3ZAY, for defeating the guessing of reports under difficult conditions. (He gives random reports between 11 and 59 if you don't get the report the first time.)

Then round to the bar and lecture room for the VP8SSI slide show from Terry, W6MKB. He must have wondered whether we were ever going to make it. We were running an hour later than schedule by this time! Stagger off to bed at sometime between 12 and 01.00,

relatively early I find out later, the last to bed went at 03.00.

Sunday 27 September

As the two Johns, G3HCT and G3FKM had agreed to man the Reception from early on Sunday I had a leisurely start. Discovered that people were having difficulty missing the turning outside so went and put up some signs. The Beaumont is actually well signposted but only from the M25. Rush back in time to see the Sunday Ladies programme off, seem to be some OMs on board too!

Listen to Luis, G0KJV, and Harry, RA3AUU, running multi-lingual pile ups on GB1OTA, great operating. Actually it's difficult to get into the station room (CDXC Room!!). Everyone seems to be wanting to have a go. Bigger room next year.

Yuri, UA9OPA, asks if he can sell a few Russian maps. Find him a table which we put in the back of the bar. He sells a few but the Italians show him how to do it. They grab everyone who comes in, greet them like old friends and then get them to buy a map or two! (*Ed. Shades of Al Pacino.*)

Catch the end of the Peter Hart talk when he says that there is no relation between the performance of transceivers and their price or the newness of design. In short, progress is slow. The talk was very well received, good to hear one of the UKs experts talking on his subject. If you were buying a new rig you could have saved yourself some money.

Initial feedback from the session chairmen is very good. Spoilt for choice someone says.

Congratulate Peter, G0OGV, winner of the G5RP Trophy for DX progress, he goes off to talk to Ian, G3SEK, secretary of the White Horse ARC the co-sponsor of the award.

Thanks to Ian for doing a great job on editing 'HF DXing, the inside story' by the way.

After lunch sneak to hear Andy, G4ZVJ, and then the Clipperton, FO0CI, talk by Vincent, G0LMX. To round off the afternoon at the prize draw the President pulls his own ticket first, but gallantly puts it aside. Hans, DF5UG, gave me his tickets before rushing off to the airport and his ticket is next. Angelika chooses him the Bencher Key donated by Bob, W9KNI.

So the afternoon draws to a close. Everything seems to have gone well, only minor hitches. A great venue, can we come back next year, please?

My thanks to the HF Committee, CDXC, HF Contests, the staff of the Beaumont, ICL and Don G3OZF, and particularly to the sponsor Martin Lynch. To Roger G3KMA, and Jill and Rosemary for all their help. See you all next year and don't forget to tell your local club that the HF Convention is the one to go to if you want to have a weekend with good company.

PS. By way of a postscript my turn with GB1OTA was the following Saturday morning. I arose early, 0400, for a real intensive session on 80, 40 and 30m CW. Quite a bit of traffic on 40m but conditions weren't really very good. So I went back to bed! However on waking up at a more reasonable time I started up again on 20m CW where I stumbled over a superb LP opening to Japan. The best pile I have ever had, split frequency, the whole bit. Even had deliberate QRM!

PPS. Any good ideas for next years programme at the HF Convention ?

CDXC at the RSGB HF & IOTA Convention

My first involvement with this year's RSGB HF & IOTA Convention, was when, as a corresponding member of the RSGB HF Committee, I received a letter from Bob, G3PJT, asking me to take responsibility for organising the software demonstration room. No problem. However, that was the thin edge of the wedge! A little later, I was asked to take on the organisation of all the first floor exhibitors - *"just the software demos and CDXC, which you're doing anyway, plus the HF Contest Committee"* - this eventually turned out to also include the RSGB Bookstall, EMC. and Linear Amplifiers. Again, no problem. Then, Roger, G3KMA, called to say that the HF Committee were organising a special event station, and that he was trying for a rather special call sign, which would be operational for a month. Would CDXC take responsibility for organising a rota of operators for the month, (excluding the convention)? Great, I thought - a good chance to gain some much needed publicity for CDXC, so I gladly accepted.

By now, the Convention was drawing ever closer, the work load was building up rapidly, I was trying to get a new version of SHACKLOG into a demonstrable form for the Convention, and I was up to my eyes in things at the salt mine, coping with the problems of transferring a very complex piece of electronic/software technology from the R&D lab into production.

Then came the straw that broke the camel's back as far as I personally concerned. As the HF Committee didn't have the resources to organise the special event station for the Convention, would CDXC take over its organisation? After discussions with John, G3WGV, I

willingly accepted, on condition that the station would be located in the CDXC room, in order to maximise the number of visitors to CDXC. However, I'd now really dug a hole for myself, as I'd made a commitment, knowing that I couldn't fulfil it personally. What was needed was someone with good organisational capability, and a fair amount of time available. John and I between us rang numerous CDXC members, but, by this late stage, all were committed to other Convention activities. The knight in shining armour, who saved the day, was Neville, G3NUG, who, at that time wasn't even a CDXC member!! Neville did a truly first class job in pulling together all the bits & pieces, collecting the tower himself, and organising a team to set up and dismantle the station. Thanks a million, Neville. I'm very pleased to say that Neville is now a CDXC Member.

So far as the CDXC room itself was concerned, Andrew, G0HSD organised the exhibits (VP8SSI maps, posters, CDXC members' QSL card display, etc.). Bren, G4DYO kindly loaned the VP8SSI plaque, which he is caretaker of, on behalf of CDXC. Bren also produced posters showing all CDXC members currently on the DXCC Honor Roll, and showing all holders of CDXC awards. Thanks to Bren and Andrew.

Regrettably, due to pressures at his own salt mine, Andrew was unable to attend the Convention this year, so a team of volunteers was found at the Convention to man the CDXC room. Many thanks to Ron, G6LX; Herbert, G/OZ7SM; Don, G3OZF; Bill, G4ADD; Keith, G3VKW; and anyone else who was involved.

The Convention turned out to be a great success for CDXC - 11 new members were recruited, and one lapsed member rejoined. There were problems with the room size, due to the last minute

decision to locate the station there, which is something that must be attended to next year, if CDXC takes on the station organisation again.

Alan, G3PMR

NEW DXCC COUNTERS?

Whether you have them all worked, or are just starting on the long ladder leading to the Honor Roll, the question of whether the "new" republics springing up in the old Yugoslavia should count for DXCC must be foremost in your mind. The DXAC decisions, which were detailed in DX News Sheet, have raised questions which could take a long time to resolve. Perhaps a decision on adding them to the DXCC Countries List should be suspended until the political situation fully stabilises? Laurie Margolis, G3UML, recently wrote to the ARRL DXCC Awards Committee:

Dear Sir,

May I be permitted to comment on the consideration of the former Yugoslav republics as new DXCC countries. I am particularly concerned about the possible accreditation of Bosnia. I write as an Honor Roll member since the 1970's, now with all countries confirmed, and also as a TV journalist who works in the area.

I have no problem with counting Slovenia, Croatia and Macedonia as new countries. They are coherent and viable entities with functioning governments which are in full and stable control of at least some of their territory. I would even go so far as to suggest that the rump of Yugoslavia should become a new country, rather than continuing as before.

The borders of Serbia and its associated territories bear little relation to the original state. Yugoslavia as was should be deleted.

Bosnia presents several serious problems. As I write, the Sarajevo government controls, precariously, about twenty percent of the internationally recognised territory. Serbia has about half, and has declared something called the "Republic of Serbs", based on Banja Luka. Croatia is carving off about thirty percent and has created a statelet called Herzeg-Bosnia, based on Mostar. The recognised government controls only some Moslem enclaves in the Sarajevo area, plus an area around Bihac which won't last much longer.

The licensing situation is completely undefined, and is also about the least of their problems. Recently I worked 4O4XR in Banja Luka, on Bosnian territory. However, this station, much better known as YU4EBL, declared itself to be in the aforementioned "Republic of Serbs", incidentally adding that he considered that to be a "new one for DXCC".

Now YU4EBL was certainly a legitimate station once, but equally certainly his current incarnation is not approved by the Bosnian government. He is now operating from a city that has been "ethnically cleansed" - most Moslems have been driven out of Banja Luka. There's a strong argument for

suggesting that any credit he holds for DXCC or other awards should be annulled.

There are various odd 4N4 stations around, but their origins are unclear. I have worked 4N4N and 4N4GA, the latter with shellfire audible in the background. They were clearly Bosnian Moslems (they told me so). During the recent CQWDX Contest, 4N4T was active, from where or licensed by who quite unclear.

Crediting Bosnian contacts will prove a minefield for ARRL, with fair decisions difficult or impossible. Unless a 4N4 station can prove he has a Sarajevo issued licence, and is in a

Moslem controlled zone, his provenance is doubtful.

Can I therefore suggest that any decision to add Bosnia to the list be suspended for the time being. The situation is very fluid. It may be that some viable state, with proper licensing authority, does emerge. It could also be that Bosnia virtually disappears, carved up in an unholy alliance between Serbia and Croatia. That, unfortunately, is the way it looks at the time of writing.

Shortly after this piece was written we were advised that there had been a statement in QST to the effect that Bosnia will not be added to the DXCC List until hostilities cease.

CDXC AWARDS

Brendan McCartney, G4DYO - CDXC Awards Manager

Having beaten off the fierce competition for the post of CDXC Awards Manager I want to ensure that all members are familiar with the awards administered by the club.

1. MERIT AWARD Originally a parchment certificate, this prestige award is now in the form of a multicolour wall-plaque which is awarded *"In recognition of an outstanding and unselfish contribution to the field of Amateur Radio DXing"*. Thirty four Awards have been granted since the award was established in the early-eighties. The first recipient was Roger Brown, G3LQP in 1983, since when a number of top DXers have received the award, including VK9NS, DJ6SI, 9N1MM, CE0AE, DK9KX, F6EXV and OH2BH. Following suggestions from the membership, recipients are decided by the CDXC Committee. PLEASE, these expensive awards are issued on behalf of the membership, not just the committee, and if you feel that a DXer or group of DXers (e.g. DXpedition Team) has done a good job let me know. The last Merit Awards were issued in 1991 to Wayne Mills, N7NG and Jacky Calvo, F2CW.

2. PENALLT TROPHY - The Allan Phillips GW0BIC Memorial Trophy. This magnificent silver-plated cup was financed partly by donations from DX

friends of GW0BIC and partly by Sue Phillips in memory of her husband. The rules governing the annual competition for the trophy were formulated by the Western DX Group which, sadly, seems to be defunct. Allan was very keen on the 40 and 80m bands and the rules governing award of the trophy were formulated to reflect this. Let's have some support. Alan was a True-Blue DXer whose memory deserves to be kept alive. Entrants must work a minimum of 100 countries on a combination of 40m and 80m in any five days of their choice in the period 1st October to 31st March. The winner is the DXer who works the most countries on the two bands. Unfortunately, very few CDXC members have seen fit to work for this Trophy and the winner in each of the three years the trophy has been available has been Steve Cole, GW4BLE! There must be other DXers in the club with LF interests and it shouldn't be too difficult to rack up a reasonable score on 40 and 80m over a winter contest weekend. Let's have some competition for Steve this year! The Trophy is held for one year and, currently, the recipient receives no permanent memento of his achievement. It should be feasible to produce an appropriate certificate for presentation to the winner each year as a permanent keepsake. Any comments on this idea?

3. CQWW PLAQUES These are awarded annually by CDXC to the top scoring United Kingdom stations in the single-operator categories of the CQWW Contests. The CW Plaque goes to the highest scoring station in the 100 watt category. However, the RSGB also presents a trophy for the highest scoring single-op in the CW Contest and if this is won by someone entering the 100 watt category, the CDXC Plaque goes to the winner of the higher power category. The SSB Plaque goes to the highest scoring UK entrant irrespective of category. The plaques, which are usually presented at the RSGB HF Convention, went this year to Phil Whitchurch, G3SWH (CW) and Steve Cole, GW4BLE (SSB). Congratulations to both.

4. LIFE HONORARY MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATES These are for presentation to overseas DXers who attend CDXC social gatherings. Unfortunately no records appear to exist of past recipients. A new certificate has been designed in full colour which makes a very attractive souvenir. No club privileges are bestowed with "Honorary Membership". Any CDXC group entertaining an overseas DX personality is welcome to apply to me for a certificate.

I firmly believe that significant DXing achievements should be recognised. Many other hobbies and interests recognise achievements with trophies, statuettes, cups, spoons, badges, etc., and anybody who has had the pleasure of attending an FOC Dinner will be aware that at least one amateur radio organisation follows suit! There are plenty of DXing achievements which are not recognised by the major award sponsors (national societies, etc.). For example, 300 DXCC countries worked has always been recognised as a major achievement by DXers but other than a 300 sticker for the DXCC certificate

there appears to be no other "prize" for this milestone in one's DXing career. With the modern DTP gear available within CDXC it should be perfectly feasible to produce "certificates of recognition" for a whole variety of DX achievements. I would be pleased to receive comments/ideas before approaching the Committee with some firm propositions.

The Awards Programme is an important part of CDXC activity. Please support it!

PENALLT TROPHY

EASIER RULES!!!

The Penallt trophy was presented to by the Western DX Club in memory of Alan Philips, GW0BIC. As Alan was a very keen LF operator it was decided that a competition be held within CDXC to find the 'Low Band' operator of the year. After much deliberation the rules are now published in their present form, making it much easier for casual participants. It is an exciting competition, which can be entered at your own convenience at any time during the LF season. It tests your skill as a DXer in working as many DXCC countries as possible on 40 and 80 metres. So far there has only been one winner, GW4BLE, but who will win this time? The Committee urges you all to have a go, if not seriously, and put in an entry.

RULES

To work as many DXCC countries on 40 and 80m in the LF season (1st October 1992 - 31st March 1993) on any five days of your choice.

Details of where to send log extracts will appear in the Newsletter at a later date.

Good luck!!!

MEMBER'S ADS

FOR SALE: Spreadsheet - Quattro Pro (DOS)V3.0. The best DOS spreadsheets. Boxed with all manuals + discs (3.5") in mint condition. List £200+. A snip at £46.00.

WANTED: Novell recently were giving away FOC a limited number of DR DOS 6.0 + Netware Lite V1.1. If you were lucky enough to get one of these, and have no use for it, I would like to purchase it if the price is right.

Phone Alan, G3PMR on 0767 677913

FOR SALE: TS180S with PS30 PSU, 250Hz Fox Tango CW filter, DFC fitted. Faithful radio, 308 countries worked! VGC £400.00.

Katsumi EK150 Iambic keyer VGC £50.00

Phone Andrew, G0HSD, 08444 2422

CDXC DX DAY-1992/93

Following the success of this event last year, however poor the participation, the Committee have decided to run the CDXC DX DAY for a second year. There have been a few minor modifications to the rules in order to make the event more enjoyable and easier to understand whilst leaving the basic principles unchanged. I hope you will have a go this year, even just for a little while and put in an entry (however small). It would be nice to see this event take off! Best of luck.

RULES

- To work as many DXCC countries and possible within the specified period on time, *WITHOUT* Calling CQ, joining lists, using the PacketCluster or mentioning you are in a competition on the air.
- Operating sections: CW only, SSB only or mixed mode full power or QRP (under 100W)
- Time periods: 0000z-1159z and 1200z-2359z each period being on a separate weekend.
- A country may only be worked once on each band.
- Only DX contacts are valid (i.e. Outside EU).
- Bands: 160-10m including WARC bands.
- The entrant must observe the terms of his/her licence.

DATES

Sunday 20th December 1992 (0000-1159z) and Saturday 8th January 1993 (1200-2359z)

SCORING

Each country is worth 3 points except Pacific countries including VK/ZL which are worth 10 points. Both halves of the log are to be scored separately and then added together for the total score.

LOGS

A separate log should be kept for each bands, showing time, callsign, reports and claimed points for that contact. FOR EACH TIME PERIOD. This should be submitted with a cover sheet (including total score and a declaration that you have abided by the rules and spirit if the competition) to Brendan McCartney, 123 Reading Road, Finchampstead, Wokingham, Berks. no later than 31st January 1993.

THE 1993 KH1 HOWLAND ISLAND DXPEDITION

Packet press release #1

ON6TT, November 19 1992

For the past months, we have been preparing the KH1 DXpedition. Today, we are ready to go, and here is the official news we have been keeping from you:

DATES: Starting on Jan 25th, operation lasting for 7 full days of activity, excluding setup and tear down.

OPERATORS: USA: W0RLX, K9AJ, K4UEE, W9IXX, W0CP, K0EU
EU: F6EXV, PA3DUU, G4LJF, ON6TT

OBJECTIVES: #1: Europe
#2: Warc bands
#3: Low bands.

As KH1 is #2 most wanted in Europe (after Peter I), Europe is the main target. This is not just a 'thin air slogan', as you can see looking at the planned antennae systems and rigs.

CURRENT STATUS: Everything is confirmed including the yacht Machias, the landing permit, permission from the Fish and Wildlife administration etc... Operators are transferring the money deposits since 2 weeks now.

EQUIPMENT: We plan to run 4 high power HF stations simultaneously. Arie, PA3DUU will man the satellite and 6m station. A leading manufacturer has agreed to supply rigs and amplifiers. Negotiations for the complete satellite station and a 1kw 6m station still need to be wrapped up, but are in a final phase. For HF, there will be 2 triband beams, a 20m monobander, 1 or 2 WARC beams, phased verticals for 40 and 80, a Battle Creek special for 160m and an all band vertical.

ITINERARY: Ops will assemble in KH6 from Jan 16-18. We fly to T30 on Jan 18, sailing to KH1 the same day. The trip will last 7 days. We plan to leave KH1 on Feb 2 or 3, arriving on T32 on Feb 8. Flight to KH6 is planned on Feb 8.

COST: The budget for the whole operation is \$75,000. Each operator has committed to \$5,000. This does NOT include expenses, such as flying from EU to KH6, and local expenses/last minute purchases in KH6/T30/T32. On top of this, each operator is liable for any overrun in the expedition budget.

REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT: Currently, the major DX foundations are being contacted for financial support. Any contributions from individuals are much appreciated, so we can further reduce the financial burden on the ops who have, after all, decided to give up 4 weeks of holidays and \$6000, to bring KH1 tumbling down the Most Wanted List. Donations are centralized through:

G4LJF - Ian Shepherd

Hutts Farm, Blagrove Lane, Wokingham Berks RG11 4AX (England)

Further information will be circulated through the DX information bulletins and the packet Cluster/BBS network.

73- Peter ON6TT

*** CDXC Membership Moves Upwards Again!! ***

Following our very successful HF Convention, where many new members joined CDXC, the membership level currently stands at 138 paid members; a further 13 have yet to renew their membership this year. These are being chased up by the Committee, and would take the membership level through the 150 mark, for the first time, I believe.

On behalf of the CDXC Committee, I'd like to welcome the following new members to CDXC, who joined at the Convention, or soon afterwards:

G3OUF	David Evans	(Hemel Hempstead)
G0DBE	Lee Marsland	(Liverpool)
G4JKS	Hilary Claytonsmith	(St. Albans)
G0OHW	Jan Vasek	(Richmond)
G0NSL	Brian Russell	(Runcorn)
G0LRT	Philip Daymond	(Plymouth)
G4SFO	Norman Chiverton	(Rugby)
G3RFS	Neville Bethune	(London)
G3MPB	Roy Smith	(Redhill)
G3MCX	John Kennedy	(South Croydon)
G3VBL	Chris Pedder	(Preston)
VS6CT/G4JMB	Philip Weaver	(Hong Kong)
G0OFE	Jim Smith	(Wimborne)
G4CMT	Roy Andreang	(Hull)
G3NUG	Neville Cheadle	(Hemel Hempstead)
G0HXN	David Mann	(Crowthorne)
G0SLY/K3RV	Carl Kratzer	(London)
G3UOF	Mike Wadsworth	(Gloucester)

I hope that all will enjoy being members of CDXC, get lots out of the club, and put plenty back, too! A special welcome to Carl, G0SLY, who is on a 3 year secondment to the US Embassy in London.

It's great to see such a good mix of "old" and "new" call signs, and such a wide geographical spread, also. The Committee is determined to remove the "local" image that CDXC has in some quarters, the growth of membership on a nation wide basis will certainly help this drive.

A full membership list appears as an insert to this Newsletter. Please let me know of any errors or omissions.

Good DXing. 73 de Alan, G3PMR, Secretary.

AL SLATER, G3FXB

Most CDXC members will already have seen the tributes to Al which appeared in DX News Sheet. Al had dominated the UK DXing and Contesting scene for several decades, with a long run of winning scores and records to his credit. He never boasted a mega-station, using what, by current standards, were relatively modest antennas and tried and tested equipment. Much more, his success was due to operating skill and a level of dedication which included regular analysis of his own performance and that of others, in order to put into practice the lessons learned. His achievements were at world-class level, resulting in his election to the CQ Magazine Contest Hall of Fame, only the third amateur to receive that accolade.

Al's travels made him an effective ambassador for UK amateur radio, and at home he was always approachable by those wanting to learn something from Al's lifetime of experience. Many CDXC members will also remember the lively presentation given by Al and N4AR at the 1991 HF Convention.

A large number of amateurs attended Al's funeral, giving a fitting send-off to one of the great characters of the UK amateur fraternity.



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CB2F/5K 50	3KPEP 4:1	£105.75
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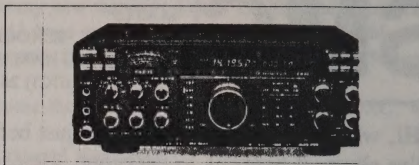
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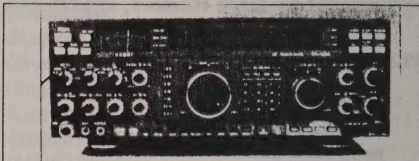
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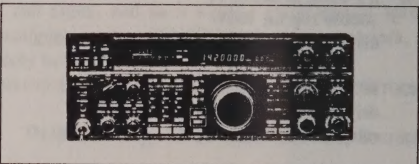
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